

USAF SCHOOL OF AEROSPACE MEDICINE (USAFSAM) INTERNATIONAL TIMES

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From the Director

Greetings and welcome to another newsletter. This issue introduces you to another member of our team - DIMO. These folks take export training to you in your country. An amazing array of training opportunities are available from them. We were honored by the visit of the German Air Force Surgeon General



Eric Rodig. His lecture on advanced aeromedical operations was timely and informative. It was our honor to award him his official USAFSAM Instructor Badge. Lastly, the AAMIMO graduation is a time of great accomplishment. This year's Prop Wash Award winner is featured. Thank you for reading and please let us know if you would like to see anything featured or have any letters to the editor.

Air Force Security Assistance Training (AFSAT) Team Visits USAFSAM

The Air Force Security Assistance Training (AFSAT) team, located at Randolph AFB TX, visited USAFSAM in July to get an inside look at what courses we provide to our international students.

AFSAT works closely with the Security Assistance Officers (SAOs), in the US Embassy located in each country, to assist our international customers in getting the training they desire.



AFSAT received vital information on the courses we offer here, as well as visits to our training sites. Everything they learned and saw while visiting USAFSAM will help them to better serve our international customers in the future. Everybody had a good time. It was a huge success!

Defense Institute for Medical Operations (DIMO)



The Defense Institute for Medical Operations (DIMO) was established in September 2002 when the Air Force's Institute for Global Health merged with the Navy's Defense Healthcare Management Institute. In October 2003, DIMO transitioned to the International Education Exportable Division within the International and Expeditionary Education and Training Department of the United States Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine (USAFSAM), Brooks City-Base, TX.

The primary goal of DIMO is to become the Department of Defense's (DoD's) focal point for exportable healthcare training - committed to providing world class, regionally-focused healthcare education and training. DIMO's

programs strive to improve communications between military and civilian agencies, as well as strengthening international coalition partnerships.

Although the majority of instruction consists of exportable courses based on the "train the trainer" concept, DIMO also offers resident courses. DIMO's offerings emphasize two major areas of focus: Healthcare Management and Disaster/Trauma clinical courses. The healthcare management courses include an Executive Healthcare Resource and Management course as well as an HIV/AIDS Planning and Policy Development course. There are also courses focusing on specific country/regional healthcare management issues/needs.

The deployable Disaster/Trauma clinical courses cover topics which include Regional Disaster Response and Trauma System Management, Eye Trauma Management, Aeromedical Evacuation and Critical Care Transport, as well as Hospital Focused Response to Biological Weapons and Toxins, Public Health, and the Mental Health aspects of disasters.

Since 1999, DIMO has trained more than 1,800 students from over 40 countries. DIMO utilizes subject matter experts as instructors from the "Total Force", Active Duty, Guard and Reserves, as well as DoD civilians. Courses are funded by International Military Education and Training (IMET), Expanded-International Military Education and Training (E-IMET), Foreign Military Sales (FMS), Humanitarian Assistance (HA), and Counter Terrorism (CT) sources.

For further information and a complete course listing, please visit the DIMO website; <http://wwwsam.brooks.af.mil/web/DIMO/dimo-index.htm>. The address for the Defense Institute for Medical Operations is: 2675 Flight Nurse, Building 804, Brooks City-Base, TX 78235-5137. Phone (210) 536-2082, DSN 240-2082, Fax (210) 536-4555/DSN 240-4555.



Left to Right (Front Row): MSgt Vigil, Ms. Garcia, Ms. Cox, Capt Hubbard, Ms. Thompson, Ms. Lloyd-Wright, SSgt Flores, (Back Row): Mr. Stauff, Col Dolan, Col Lindberg, Maj Locklear, LCDR Marshall, Ms. Luther, Ms. Hudson

Brigadier General Roedig visits USAFSAM



Col Kleinsmith with Brigadier General Roedig

Brigadier General Eric Roedig didn't just visit USAFSAM, he was actually here upon invitation from leadership to share advanced aeromedical operational concepts recently developed by the German Air Force. He was here as a guest international faculty member. His audience of over 100 individuals included students, residents, staff and visitors from other Brooks City-Base organizations. The lecture was commented on by attendees as being extremely informative and timely as we face formidable aeromedical evacuation challenges in the CENTCOM AOR on a daily basis. It was a pleasure for the USAFSAM Commander to award General Roedig his USAFSAM Instructor Badge following his lecture.

AAMIMO's Graduate

Seven students from seven countries (Bangladesh, Egypt, Greece, India, South Korea, Netherlands, and Pakistan) came together in January for this year's Advanced Aerospace Medicine for International Medical Officers (AAMIMO) course.

The students traveled to many places learning about aerospace medicine and flight, as well as extensive in class lectures. They worked together as a team researching and building medical briefs to present at this year's Aerospace Medical Association (AsMA) meeting, held in San Antonio.

The students visited the local sites and learned about Texas history and its cultures, attending several events that were held here in San Antonio.

The class was smaller than normal this year (due to OPSTEMPO concerns for everybody's Air Force) but was of exceptional high quality. The clinical case presentations at AsMA, the Team Aerospace country briefings and the scientific projects each student completed were all judged as exceptional.

The Prop Wash Award went to the student who contributed the most toward positive class morale and educational effort. This year's recipient was Squadron Leader Qamar Hasnain from Pakistan. Congratulations to all our AAMIMOs 2003 on a job well done!



From left to right: LtCol Khaleque, LtCol Zwetsloot, Maj Sharma, Maj Lim, Col Scott, Col Kleinsmith, 1Lt Nikolaou, Maj Hasnain, and LtCol Awad.

USAFSAM, RAF begin instructor exchange

The U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine and the Royal Air Force began sharing instructors and training information in July. USAFSAM and the Tactical Medical Wing of the RAF both teach flight nursing and aeromedical evacuation techniques as part of their training and in June members of the TMW visited USAFSAM to compare training tactics. At the end of June and beginning of July, USAFSAM personnel returned the visit, examining two sites in the United Kingdom. "From that visit we discovered we had a lot in common," said Maj. Greg Cook, USAFSAM's flight nurse course director. TMW personnel were interested in the training tools used by the school, especially the detailed aircraft mock-ups like the C-130, a plane used by the U.S. Air Force and the RAF.



"They have the same problems we do, trying to get airframes for students," Cook said.

USAFSAM wanted to expose their students to RAF procedures, because the two countries work together during many military operations. For longer flights, the medical crews wouldn't work on one another's aircraft with mixed crews, but in-theater, and especially in combat, the medics can work side-by-side. "We go to war together, we fly together, so dagnamit we should train together," Cook said.

Sgt. Belinda Pearce, senior aeromedical evacuation instructor for the RAF, the first instructor to participate in the exchange program, attended the course that ran from July 7 to Aug. 4. While she spent most of her time observing, she did teach various segments of the course. "Even some of our phraseology is exactly the same," Pearce said.

The similarities in training and procedures facilitated the instructor exchange program. "That's the beauty of this, the similarities that we share," said Master Sgt. Cornelio Perez, the course supervisor for aeromedical evacuation at USAFSAM.

Pearce returned to the UK and will submit a report on her experience to her superiors. Two instructors from USAFSAM may attend a RAF course later this year. "This has got far reaching impact," Cook said.

A major difference between the two programs' structures is how crews form. In the U.S., flight crews are a team that work together continually. In the UK, nurses and technicians work in hospitals until they're called on and different crews form each mission. According to Pearce, U.S. missions have a larger scale and better training equipment.

"You've just got a lot more of what we haven't," Pearce said.

Both parties in the agreement share course documents and training tools. While neither expects a student exchange program in the future, they do hope to make training more uniform in the two countries. In addition, the medical allies form a closer, more personal bond.

"We've extended our aeromedical evacuation instructor family to include four peers from the United Kingdom," Cook said, referring to Pearce and her three colleagues who could potentially attend courses at USAFSAM.

Association of Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS) held in San Antonio



The 109th annual Association of Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS) is being held here in San Antonio, Texas from November 16-21.

Featured Course

The Public Health Officer Course prepares newly accessed Air Force public health officers (both active duty and reserve) with Doctoral Degrees in Veterinary Medicine, Master's Degrees in Public Health, or equivalent degrees to manage public health programs in support of the USAF Aerospace Medicine program. The course is currently 13 weeks in length and divided into five different increments of instruction. Increment 1 training is intended to orient the student to the public health/aerospace medicine mission and provide an introduction to U.S. Air Force communication skills (written and verbal), basic computer application skills, and management and administrative skills. Students are also expected to complete the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) home study course, Principles of Epidemiology. Increment 2 training focuses on epidemiology of diseases, sexually transmitted disease prevention and control; modes of transmission, disease surveillance, methods of prevention, treatment, and etiology of communicable diseases of military significance. Contained within this training increment is the Applied Epidemiology course. Applied Epidemiology focuses on the principles of epidemiology, conducting disease outbreak investigations and the importance of adequate disease surveillance systems. This course builds on to the CDC's Principles of Epidemiology home study book. The focus for Increment 3 is occupational health and a brief discussion of environmental issues with regards to human health. During this increment students learn the specifics of the U.S. Air Force's occupational health and safety policies and programs. Some of the specifics of the training include the processes and computer systems used to manage a base level occupational health program; assessing the recommendations for occupational health medical examinations; occupational exposure education and training requirements; occupational illness investigations and reporting; introduction to Air Force industrial operations, and the use of occupational exposure limits. The course then moves into Increment 4 where the student learns food safety and sanitation principles and the investigation of a food-borne illness outbreak. Specifically, Increment 4 introduces the student to the principles of food safety from procurement and receipt of foods to the serving facility. The student receives hands-on instruction in performing sanitation evaluations of serving and storage facilities and the proper sampling and storage of food. Food security and approval of food sources is a new addition to the course. Students are taught the principles of operational risk management and apply them to performing a food vulnerability and security assessment. Students are also taught the basics of approving local sources of food procurement to ensure the safety of locally obtained foods. Increment V training focuses on medical entomology and medical readiness, or aerospace medicine operations in a deployed location. The medical entomology portion addresses insect biology, disease vector identification, surveillance, and control. Students spend time in the field conducting insect surveillance and identification. Medical readiness training includes the environmental and disease-related impact of military operations, including nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) weapons; ensuring safe food and water, use of NBC detectors and other field equipment, medical intelligence sources and dissemination of information; field sanitation and hygiene; response planning and a few other key points and concepts of deploying aerospace medicine personnel. Students learn the principles disease prevention and surveillance in the field and the importance of base set-up and maintenance of field hygiene and sanitation. Students are also expected to deliver a medical intelligence briefing that assesses disease and environmental health threats at a fictitious deployed location, and know the various sources of medical intelligence information.

Did You Know...

That you too can submit an article for the newsletter?

That you can write a letter to the editor?

That you can email us at
talk2afsam@msn.com

Next Issue:

South Africa Surgeon General Visit

New AAMIMO class 2004

AsMA in Alaska